

REMARKS

Claims 1-13 are pending in the application. Claims 1-13 stand rejected. Claims 1 and 7 are independent claims.

Claims 1 and 7 have been amended to delete the term “substantially.” Applicant respectfully submits that each amendment was not made for any reason related to patentability, but for purely a cosmetic reason. Therefore, applicant makes no disclaimer by each amendment.

Claims 1 and 7 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. ' 102(b) as allegedly being anticipated by Lee *et al.* (U.S. Pub. 2001/0004290) (“Lee”).

Claim 1 recites “**setting a lasing-mode interval of the FP laser** to be... 3 dB linewidth of the **light received** therein.” Claim 7, an apparatus claim, recites similar features. As noted in the specification, the mode-locked state of the FP laser can be maintained if the lasing mode of the FP laser is set to a predetermined linewidth of the light received by the FP laser.

Lee, as read by applicant, discloses a WDM source with an incoherent light injected to the FP laser diode. However, nowhere within Lee is there a disclosure that the lasing-mode interval of the FP laser is set at a predetermined linewidth of the received light. Instead, Lee discloses that side mode suppression ratio (“SMSR”) of its FP laser is less than 6 dB.

Applicant respectfully submits that the SMSR is the amplitude difference between the main mode and the largest side mode generated within the FP laser diode, the parameter that is unrelated to the lasing-mode interval of the FP laser. Therefore, a FP laser having the SMSR less than 6 dB is different from and does not teach a FP laser set to have a lasing-mode interval at a predetermined linewidth of the received light, as recited in claims 1 and 7. Therefore, Lee does not teach or anticipate all features of claims 1 and 7.

Claims 1 and 7 also stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. '102(e) as allegedly being anticipated by Han *et al.* (U.S. Pub. 2004/0213574) ("Han"). As noted above, claim 1 recites "**setting a lasing-mode interval of the FP laser** to be... 3 dB linewidth of the **light received** therein," and claim 7, an apparatus claim, recites similar features.

In rejecting claims 1 and 7 over Han, the Office Action indicates that setting a lasing-mode interval of the FP laser at a predetermined linewidth of the received light or an FP laser that is set to such linewidth is disclosed in paragraph 0028 of Han.

However, applicant respectfully submits that the FP laser diode disclosed in the paragraph 0028, as disclosed in Figure 4, is contained in the light transmitting part 41 and **does not receive light**. Instead, the FP laser diode contained in the light transmitting part 41 **receives DC bias current and generates light** (Id.). Therefore, such FP laser diode cannot be set to have a **lasing mode interval at a predetermined linewidth of the received light**, as recited in claims 1 and 7.

Moreover, Han fails to disclose whether the laser interval mode of the FP lasers contained in each ONU, the FP laser diode that receives light, are set to a predetermined linewidth of the received light. As such, Han also fails to disclose a FP laser that is set to have a **lasing mode interval at a predetermined linewidth of the received light**, as recited in claims 1 and 7.

As both Lee and Hans fails to teach "setting a lasing-mode interval of the FP laser to be... 3dB linewidth of the light received therein," as recited in claims 1 and 7, two references, alone or in combination, fails to anticipate or render claims 1 and 7 obvious. Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of the 35 U.S.C. '102(b) and 35 U.S.C. '102(e) rejection on claims 1 and 7 over Lee and Han.

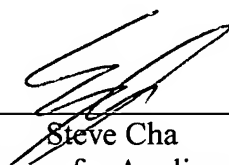
Amendment
Serial No. 10/691,392

Other dependent claims in this application are each dependent on the independent claims 1 and 7, and the dependent claims are believed patentable for the same reasons. Since each dependent claim is also deemed to define an additional aspect of the invention, however, the individual consideration of the patentability of each on its own merits is respectfully requested.

Should the Examiner deem that there are any issues which may be best resolved by telephone, please contact Applicant's undersigned representative at the number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

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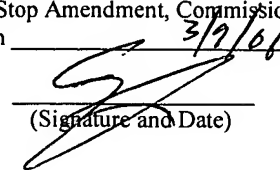
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